



## MAY 2020 NEWSLETTER

Greetings to all of our members;

Whilst the CD19 pandemic has restricted our efforts to conduct our regular general meetings, I wish to assure you that elected members have continued to be very active in representing and advocating for your views to build a healthier, safer and sustainable future for us all.

WACRA has recently re-structured into 3 task groups or teams to share the workload.

- Coastal Management
- Climate Emergency
- Council Connect

**Coastal Management** - Current activities include;

1. “Securing the future of our coastline” We have three representatives on a Government and Coastal Community Reference Group exploring ways in which we can save our beaches and dunes from continual sand erosion and looking at the best ways to transfer or prevent sand build-up. So far, we have had one meeting, via Zoom, and are looking forward to several future workshops. Jim Douglas, Geoff Short and Bert Brown are your representatives.
2. Seeking a commitment from the State Government & City of Charles Sturt to finalise the Breakout Creek concept plan.
3. Continue lobbying for the continuance of the coastal path between Grange and Semaphore.
4. Review the environmental outcomes resulting from the dredging of the Outer Harbour channel.
5. Continue lobbying Dept of Environment & Water to stop the illegal discharge of groundwater onto Henley Beach.

**Climate Emergency** - Current activities include;

1. Working with Adapt West to support their climate Emergency plans.
2. Tree propagation and mass plantings with an emphasis on involving schools.
3. Encouraging council to install solar panels on council properties, as part of a job creation scheme, with an emphasis on the 5 retirement villages that council manage.
4. Participate in the future Western Suburbs Climate Forum.  
Julie Whitehead (Co-ordinator), Andrea Rankin, Alan Goldsmith and Pedro Schultz comprise the Climate Emergency team.

**Council Connect** - Current activities include;

Planning to meet with the Mayor and CEO to discuss Council’s role in Covid 19 recovery including revision to Council’s Strategic Plan, employment opportunities, rate relief, the final stage of the Breakout Creek Wetlands, Antunes drain on to Henley Beach and keeping communities connected after Messenger newspapers ceased publishing.

Monitoring Council minutes and agendas noting that at the April 27 Council meeting:

Council are negotiating with DPTI to establish a community garden and community space adjacent to Grange Station.

The Government Planning and Design Code is proving to be a 'disaster', heavily weighted for the benefit of Developers, to the almost exclusion of Local Government and community. The Government have received many objections to the Code for its bias and confusion of terminology. WACRA is a member of Community Alliance S.A (<https://communityalliancesa.org.au>), with 30+ other resident groups, calling on the Government to 'Crash the Code' and start again with far more input from the community. A 'hold' has been placed on the Code for a 3 month review. A Bill has been presented to the SA Parliament, requesting a 12month 'hold' to allow time for a total revision. More to come!

The River Torrens Governance Review, which Paul and Bert attended, is now in the hands of the Minister to hopefully form the committee that will be responsible for improving the water quality and surrounding environment for the whole of the river.

Council is in the process of negotiating a 5years + 5+5 lease for the Henley RSL on existing premises.

Council has passed a motion to allow Council to substitute a new Public Consultation Policy without any public consultation! We are trying to find out why and how this motion was passed.

The Public were excluded from a Council meeting to discuss budget overrun for the West Beach Rock Wall and issue of a tender for Northern Beach Access Pathway – on the basis of "commercial in confidence" matters. We have recently been informed that the rock-wall is now progressing north of the West Beach Life Saving Club. Rock material will be stored near the Henley Sailing Club from mid May for a couple of months and then transported along the beach to the northern sea wall.

Paul Laris (Co-ordinator), Lynn Walsh, Deb Cashel and Geoff Short comprise the Council Connect team.

### **WACRA History Project** – 'Listen to the People'

The WACRA members history book of events from 1975 is nearing completion. Over 40 great stories from members with a collection of wonderful photos of the many activities and campaigns. We are working on a book launch by the end of the year, depending on the lifting of the Covid situation.

### **Future WACRA Meetings**

WACRA Executive have been conducting regular Zoom meetings due to the social distancing rules. Because of Covid-19 restrictions, Consumer and Business Services - Association guidelines have permitted a postponement of our Annual General meeting until August, when it is hoped that the distancing rules are relaxed and we can all meet again.

### **Membership**

WACRA's strength is in your membership, which provides us with the support and direction for the activities we are involved in. If you are interested in being involved with the above-mentioned activities, please contact us.

Members can stay informed by viewing our Facebook and Website which is currently being updated by Andrea Rankin.

Anne Wheaton will be mailing/emailing members reminder notices to update membership in the near future. Anne can also be contacted on [wheaties@adam.com.au](mailto:wheaties@adam.com.au) or (m) 0433 046 820

Hoping you are all well during these difficult times and we look forward to seeing you soon.

Authorised by Bert Brown, Co Chairperson WACRA, PO Box 72, Henley Beach SA 5022